

ARTICLE 27: LOCAL OPTION ROOM TAX

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 64G, Section 3A, as amended, and impose a local excise tax upon the transfer of occupancy of any room or rooms in a bed and breakfast establishment, hotel, lodging house, short term rental, or motel located within the Town at a rate of 6%, said excise tax to take effect on the first day of the calendar quarter commencing at least thirty days after such vote of the Town Meeting, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.
(Inserted by Select Board).

On a motion by Alice von Loesecke, 84 Warren Avenue, Select Board and seconded,
I move that the Town accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 64G, Section 3A, as amended, and impose a local excise tax upon the transfer of occupancy of any room or rooms in a bed and breakfast establishment, hotel, lodging house, short term rental, or motel located within the Town at a rate of 6%, said excise tax to take effect on the first day of the calendar quarter commencing at least thirty days after the Town's vote of acceptance of said law at this Annual Town Meeting.

Jennifer Finch, 165 Codman Hill Road moved to table the motion.

Voted 69 in favor 83 opposed [DOES NOT PASS] to table the motion.

After the question had been called, an amendment was proposed by Lucas Thayer, 92 South Shaker Road to reduce the proposed tax rate from 6% to 3%.

The amendment was rescinded.

Voted less than majority [DOES NOT PASS] that the Town accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 64G, Section 3A, as amended, and impose a local excise tax upon the transfer of occupancy of any room or rooms in a bed and breakfast establishment, hotel, lodging house, short term rental, or motel located within the Town at a rate of 6%, said excise tax to take effect on the first day of the calendar quarter commencing at least thirty days after the Town's vote of acceptance of said law at this Annual Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 28: CHARTER CHANGES

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court of the Commonwealth to adopt a special substantially the same as the following act, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE TOWN CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF HARVARD.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Article 3, Section 3-1 (e) 2 ii) of the Charter of the town of Harvard, which is on file in the office of the archivist of the Commonwealth, as provided in Section 12 of Chapter 43B of the General Laws, is hereby amended by striking out the word "shall" in the second sentence thereof and inserting in its place the word "may" and by inserting immediately after the third sentence thereof "If a vacancy occurs within 60 days of the Town Election the Select Board may choose not to fill the vacant position.",

so that, as amended, said Article 3, Section 3-1 (e) 2 ii) provides that:

"ii) School Committee, Trustees of the Harvard Public Library, and Trustees of the Warner Free Lecture

Society - The remaining members of the agency shall give notice of the vacancy to the Select Board and to the public. The Select Board and the remaining members of the elected board may, by joint vote, not less than one week after notice of the date on which the vote is to be taken, fill the vacancy until the next Town Election. The affirmative votes of the majority of the persons entitled to vote on the vacancy shall be necessary for the election. If a vacancy occurs within 60 days of the Town Election the Select Board may choose not to fill the vacant position.”

SECTION 2. Said charter is hereby further amended by inserting in Article 3, Section 3-2 (b) 1 vi) thereof the words “conform to the Town Bylaw” after the word “shall” in the second sentence thereof by striking therefrom the words “begin in September/October annually with a joint meeting of the Select Board, School Committee, Finance Committee, Capital Planning and Investment Committee, Planning Board, Board of Library Trustees, Board of Health, Conservation Commission, Community Preservation Committee, Park and Recreation Commission, and others as deemed necessary by the Select Board. A review of the proposed budget shall occur in January with final presentation to the Town for approval at the Annual Town Meeting.” so that, as amended, said Article 3, Section 3-2 (b) 1 vi) provides as follows:

“vi) Prepare and submit the budget of the Town as set forth in Article 6. The budget shall support the articulated policy goals and initiatives. Budget preparation shall conform to the Town Bylaw.”

SECTION 3. Said charter is hereby further amended by striking from Article 4, Section 4-5 (a) thereof the word “appoints” and inserting in its place the word “creates”, so that, as amended, said Article 4, Section 4-5 (a) provides that:

“(a) Together with a Director of Community and Economic Development, if the Select Board creates one, work to accomplish the community and economic goals as envisioned by the Select Board.”

SECTION 4. Said charter is hereby further amended by striking from the fourth sentence of Article 5, Section 5-3 (a) thereof the word “shall” and inserting in its place the word “may”, so that, as amended, said Article 5, Section 5-3 (a) provides that:

“(a) There shall be a Finance Department managed by the Finance Director/Town Accountant reporting to the Town Administrator and the Select Board. This department will include a Treasurer/Collector and a Principal Assessor. The Department shall be responsible for the performance of all the fiscal and financial activities of the Town. The Finance Director/Town Accountant, upon certification as a school business administrator and at the will of the School Committee, may serve as the School Business Manager and report to the Superintendent of Schools and the School Committee for all school-related financial activities.”

SECTION 5. Said charter is hereby further amended by a.) Striking from Article 6, Section 6-2 thereof the words “but not later than December 31”; b.) by striking from the first line thereof “Select Board” and inserting in its place “Finance Committee”; and by striking from the second line thereof “Finance Committee” and inserting in its place “Select Board”, so that, as amended, said Article 6, Section 6-2 provides that:

“Within the time fixed by bylaw, the Finance Committee shall submit to the Select Board for its analysis, comments, and recommended funding, a proposed balanced operating budget for the ensuing fiscal year with an accompanying budget message and supporting documents.”

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SECTION 6. Said charter is hereby further amended by striking from second line of Article 6, Section 6-4 (b) "Finance Committee" and inserting in its place "Select Board"; striking from the second and third lines thereof "Select Board" and inserting in its place "Finance Committee"; and striking from the fourth line thereof "Select Board" and inserting in its place "Finance Committee"; so that, as amended, said Article 6, Section 6-4 (b) provides that:

"(b) Upon completion of its initial review of the budget, at least 30 days prior to the first session of the Annual Town Meeting, the Select Board shall meet with the Finance Committee and the Capital Planning and Investment Committee to discuss any changes it recommends to the budget as initially prepared by the Finance Committee. After consideration of the recommendations of the Finance Committee, the Select Board shall make such changes to the budget as it deems appropriate and shall present a revised budget to the Finance Committee."

SECTION 7. This act shall take effect upon its passage.
(Inserted by the Select Board and Finance Committee)

On a motion by Richard Maiore, 50 Slough Road, Select Board and seconded,
I move that the Town authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court of the Commonwealth to adopt a special act substantially the same as the act printed on pages 46 and 47 of the Finance Committee Report and Warrant for the 2019 Annual Town Meeting in order to make the changes to the Charter of the Town of Harvard as set forth in said act.

An amendment was offered by Bruce Leicher, 58 Warren Avenue to replace the wording "...within 60 days of the Town Election..." with the wording "...within 60 days before the Town Election..." in the two places it appears in Section 1.

The Select Board accepted the amendment.

Voted majority yes that the Town authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court of the Commonwealth to adopt a special act substantially the same as the act printed on pages 46 and 47 of the Finance Committee Report and Warrant for the 2019 Annual Town Meeting, including the following amended wording in the two places it appears in Section 1, "If a vacancy occurs within 60 days before the Town Election the Select Board may choose not to fill the vacant position", in order to make the changes to the Charter of the Town of Harvard as set forth in said act.

ARTICLE 29: AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF HARVARD – BUDGET BYLAW

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Harvard by adding thereto the following new Chapter relative to the budget process, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Chapter 14 _____, Budget Process

Section 1: Budget Timeline

The budget process will start no less than 8 months prior to the date of the Annual Town Meeting as set by the Select Board.